

REMARKS

Claims 3-13 and 16-19 are pending in the application.

By the foregoing Amendment, claims 3-8, 10, 16, 17, and 19 are amended. Claims 1, 2, 14, and 15 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

These changes are believed not to introduce new matter, and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections, and withdraw them.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication that claims 3, 6, 12, 13, 16, and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 3 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 1 and 2; claim 6 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 1; claim 16 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 1, 14, and 15; and claim 19 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 1 and 14. Claim 4 is amended to depend from claim 3 and claims 5, 7, 8, 10, 17, and 18 are amended to depend from claim 19. It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claims 3, 6, 16, and 19 and the remaining dependent claims are allowable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5, 7, and 8 were rejected under section 102(b) as being anticipated by Sacks; and claim 1, 5, 7, and 8 were rejected under section 102(b) as being anticipated by Shotwell. These rejections are overcome by the cancellation of claims 1 and 2 and the amendment of claims 5, 7, and 8 to depend from claim 19.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page 3 of the Office Action, claim 4 was rejected under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sacks in view of Sano; claims 9-11 were rejected under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sacks in view of Yamasawa et al; and claims 14 and 15 were rejected under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamasawa in view of Sacks. On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 17 and 18 rejected under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamasawa in view of Sacks, and further in view of Ukawa. These rejections are overcome by the amendment of claim 4 to depend from claim 3, the amendment of claim 8 (from which claim 9 depends) to depend from claim 19, the amendment of claim 10 to depend from claim 19, the cancellation without prejudice or disclaimer of claims 14 and 15, and the amendment of claim 17 to depend from claim 19.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections have been complied with, properly traversed, or rendered moot. Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for allowance. Should any questions arise,

the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative so that this case may receive an early Notice of Allowance.

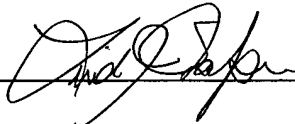
Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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